

ARTICLE APPEARED  
ON PAGE A-3

NEW YORK TIMES  
25 June 1983

# Nicaraguan Rebel Holds Fire, Charging U.S. Blocked Arms

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Special to The New York Times

MEXICO CITY, June 24 — A leading anti-Sandinista rebel said today that he had suspended his two-month-old military offensive against the Nicaraguan Government because the United States had blocked donations of money and arms from countries in the region.

But the leader, Edén Pastora Gómez, a former Sandinista commander, said that while his Democratic Revolutionary Alliance considered how to get around the United States action, he would remain in Nicaragua, where he says he heads a guerrilla force of 2,200.

"It has been clear to us that there is an arms blockade against us," Mr. Pastora said in an interview. "We have managed to get some small shipments, but they blocked the large donations pledged to us."

Mr. Pastora did not specify who made the promises of arms, but one of his top aides said commitments from Venezuela, Costa Rica and Panama had suddenly been broken and contacts had said there were "delivery problems."

## Pressure to Join Other Rebels

Several top members of the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance also said that the Central Intelligence Agency had pressed the rebels in recent weeks to join the other anti-Sandinista movement fighting in northern Nicaragua. This Honduran-based rebel movement has reportedly received extensive covert support from the United States.

In May and June, Mr. Pastora's aides said, several messages from the C.I.A. indicated that help from the United States and other sources would be forthcoming on condition that Mr. Pastora join the northern rebels. Today Mr. Pastora reiterated his refusal to deal with them as long as they are led by former officers of the national guard of the ousted Somoza Government.

Contact with Mr. Pastora was made this morning as his aides in Costa Rica patched a telephone call from Mexico City to a radio link with what they said was Mr. Pastora's base camp in southern Nicaragua. There was no way to confirm Mr. Pastora's presence in Nicaragua, but several reporters have recently visited him at his camp in the Nicaraguan province of Nueva Guinea. Over the crackling radio line, Mr. Pastora said that when he launched his offensive he had been led to believe that help was coming "in a conspiratorial way, through the kitchen door."

"But we have run out of food, medicine, arms and vehicles," he said. "We had a budget for 300 to 400 people. The problem was that support for a peasant insurrection grew faster than our organization. On the one hand this is encouraging and shows that we are right, on the other hand this is an enormous worry. We know we need massive aid. If not, we are just a sad charade."

## Asking U.S. to Stop —

The rebel leader denied that the political director of his movement, Alfonso Robelo Callejas, had asked for United States military or economic aid this week while meeting with President Reagan's special representative for Central America, Richard B. Stone, in Washington. "Robelo went to ask that they stop blocking us," he said.

Asked whether he wanted help from the United States, Mr. Pastora replied, "We have always said we will accept help from anywhere."

Mr. Pastora visited Spain and the Dominican Republic seeking help this year and sent aides to France, Germany, Italy and several Latin American countries.

Mr. Pastora, who was the Sandinista



The New York Times

Edén Pastora Gómez

Deputy Defense Minister until he resigned in July 1981, said today he had 2,200 armed men and 300 performing other tasks but many more people were wanting to join. On June 20, one of his aides said, 135 members of the popular militia of the southern village of La Azucena asked to join. But the large-scale defections from the Nicaraguan Army on which Mr. Pastora counted have reportedly not taken place.

Although Mr. Pastora has been eager for publicity, it has been difficult to assess the activities and support for his group independently.

One diplomat said, "Pastora has not been able to capitalize on his political strength because of his military weakness, and the other rebels cannot capitalize on their military strength because they are politically weak."